

State Commission

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is the state's lead agency on volunteerism. Created in 1991, MCSC promotes service as a strategy to address Michigan's greatest challenges and strengthen communities. In 2015-16, MCSC is administering 30 state AmeriCorps programs with 915 members. Mentor Michigan supports more than 200 mentoring programs with training, research, partnerships, and building public awareness. MCSC serves as the lead state agency for volunteerism during times of disaster. MCSC coordinates partnerships with local, state and national volunteer organizations and officials to provide recovery efforts for impacted residents. Annually, the MCSC works with the Governor's Office to honor individuals, organizations, and businesses with the Governor's Service Awards. These awards are given to the heroes of Michigan who are committed to volunteerism and helping to solve community issues through service.

AmeriCorps State

Through the Youth Energy Squad, AmeriCorps members foster a culture of environmental stewardship among students, staff, parents, and community members. AmeriCorps members teach students in Detroit public schools about environmental stewardship and conserving energy, water, and other resources. In the community, AmeriCorps members focus on educating Detroit residents about environmental stewardship and energy conservation by conducting energy-saving home visits. AmeriCorps members completed 77 in-home energy saving visits for low-income households, collectively saving an estimated \$19,250. Last year, nearly 3,000 students participated in "Go Green" activities. Participating schools saw a four percent decrease in electric consumption compared to a 2.24 percent increase for non-participating schools. In addition, there was a 4.5 percent decrease in gas consumption for participating schools, versus a 0.64 percentage increase for non-participating schools. As a result, participating schools saw a total savings of \$527,814 in their energy bills.

Through College Advising Corps, AmeriCorps members provide high-quality, personalized college guidance, particularly focusing on youth from impoverished, under-represented communities and first-generation college students and their families. Over the past year, AmeriCorps members advised 7,658 high school seniors and helped 3,983 seniors complete their applications for federal student aid. As a result, postsecondary institutions accepted 5,093 of the students advised. By 2018, 62 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education, and college graduates have almost double the annual earning power of a high school graduate. College graduates can expect to earn an extra \$1 million in their lifetime compared to without a college degree. By advising more than 5,000 students, AmeriCorps members helped ensure that students remain on the path to postsecondary education and approximately \$5 billion in potential lifetime earnings because of their college degree. These earnings may have remained out of reach without the support AmeriCorps members provided.

AmeriCorps National

City Year Detroit AmeriCorps has 71 members who serve full-time at 11 schools, helping more than 4,950 students at greatest risk of dropping out. City Year AmeriCorps members work alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. Thanks to the members' service, 63 percent of students in grades 6 through 9 who had a D or worse in English improved to a C or better and 90 percent of principals agree that City Year's afterschool programs create a better learning environment.

College Advising Corps has 12 AmeriCorps members serving full-time as college advisors at 12 high schools in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Pontiac, Battle Creek, Jackson, and Holland. The members are placed in underserved high schools and work to increase the number of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students who enter and complete higher education. The members provide the counsel and encouragement that students need to navigate the college admissions process. The AmeriCorps members help students plan their college searches, complete admissions and financial aid applications, and enroll at schools that will serve them well. In 2015, these 12 AmeriCorps members served 3,600 students, held 3,767 one-to-one meetings with students, and met with 3,722 students in group sessions or classroom presentations. They organized college representative visits for 854 seniors and college campus visits for 400 seniors. They have helped students amass over \$4 million in scholarships and institutional aid for the coming school year.

Through SEEDS NW Michigan Youth Corps, 46 AmeriCorps members restored two historic buildings: the Faust Cabin, in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and the Keweenaw National Historical Park Headquarters. Corps members built, restored, and maintained 3.5 miles of trails; installed 900 feet of boardwalk; improved two miles on the Manistee River; built 38 in-stream fish habitats; planted 2,500 trees in Grant Traverse and Leelanau County; and removed invasive plants from 200 acres of national and local parks. All 46 AmeriCorps members were certified in CPR/First Aid; 22 received Chipper and Chainsaw/Sawyer Certification; 11 became certified Initial Lead Paint Renovators; 42 attended OSHA training; and 14 had Leadership Development Training.

National Service Impact in Michigan



FoodCorps has 10 AmeriCorps members serving in Detroit, Flint, Sault Ste. Marie, and Traverse City. FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who work under the direction of local partner organizations to connect children to real food and help them grow up healthy. They teach children hands-on lessons about food and nutrition build and tend school gardens, teach cooking lessons, and help change what's on lunch trays so that children can eat healthy food from local farms. In the past year, the FoodCorps members in Michigan served 4,774 children, built or brought back into use 27 school and community gardens, harvested 1,828 pounds of produce, and recruited 350 community volunteers.

Two Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Corps AmeriCorps members served this past year at Genesee Health System in Flint and at the Michigan Area Health Education Center at Wayne State University in Detroit. YMHFA is a certification course that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of adolescent mental health problems, focuses on the importance of early intervention, and teaches how to help adolescents who are in crisis or having a mental health or substance use challenge. The AmeriCorps members, who are trained YMHFA instructors, certified 321 community members in the program. A three month follow up survey revealed that YMHFA strategies helped 478 adolescents who struggle with a mental health challenge or illness. The program gave YMHFA training and certification for the AmeriCorps members who serve with Project Graduation and City Year. The Genesee Health System AmeriCorps member became certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid and helped train more than 1,200 people in Genesee County over the past 11 months. Her coordination, support, and excellent instruction have been critical to achieving statewide Mental Health First Aid goals.

Youth Volunteer Corps has one full time and two part-time AmeriCorps members who serve Alpena, Ann Arbor, and Muskegon. Last year, these programs engaged 912 youth, including 112 disadvantaged youth, who gave 18,467 hours of service. These youth volunteers served on 216 projects for 74 agencies in their communities, including The Humane Society, Growing Hope, Hospice Centers, camps, and nature preserves.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Power of WE is an AmeriCorps VISTA project sponsored by the Ingham County Health Department. The project has 14 AmeriCorps VISTA members serving 13 host sites in the capital region and the 280,000 community members in Ingham County. In the past year, VISTA members have recruited 320 new volunteers who have given 4,908 hours of community service. VISTA members have also increased the capacity of their site organizations by raising \$166,385 in cash resources and \$2,682 in in-kind resources. Thanks to capacity and sustainability tools gathered by the VISTA members, 645 youth received educational support and 576 economically-disadvantaged people received support for economic development. VISTA members at the Office of Financial Empowerment developed a banking program for ex-offenders that led to a "share your story" and financial empowerment courses that served 136 people, all of whom improved their financial knowledge.

South Oakland Shelter's AmeriCorps VISTA project provides services to homeless people in the metro Detroit community. In the past year, five VISTA members recruited 171 volunteers and maintained and managed 175 volunteers who served 8,588 hours. The VISTAs trained 169 staff and volunteers, who went on to reach and support 400 homeless people. Of the people who received services, 89 received job training services, 67 received job placement services, and 53 were placed in or got jobs. Additionally, 377 people received housing services, 91 housing units were made available, 207 people transitioned into housing, 98 people were able to maintain housing for a full year, and 88 beneficiaries enrolled in healthcare. VISTA members brought more than \$300,000 into the organization – \$50,859 in cash resources and \$260,810 in in-kind resources. The VISTAs have done an exceptional job creating sustainable opportunities for people in need.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with GRACE, a faith-based organization, to fight blight in Flint. They cleared debris, weeds, and brush from vacant properties and boarded up vacant houses. GRACE's Power of One – Fight Against Blight ministry works to make Flint neighborhoods safer by completely eliminating blight. NCCC members cleared 42 vacant lots, to prepare them for moving, removing over 70,000 pounds of trash and debris in the process. They landscaped the cleared lots, sidewalks, and nearby parks – more than 40 acres of land. The team installed 10 benches near bus stops, boarded up more than 20 houses slated for demolition, ran two community events and organized a third event on their own with the hope of engaging local residents. The team's service not only benefited the residents of Flint: The Planning Department estimates that there is a \$98.28 million gap between available and needed resources for blight elimination. The team's service helped to bridge this gap, bringing the City of Flint one step closer to clean, stable neighborhoods.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team helped Habitat for Humanity Detroit build homes for low income families. Habitat's mission is to bring people together to build homes, community, and hope. NCCC members finished work on two homes in Lincoln Park and started work on a third home in MorningSide. In Lincoln Park, team members put up 9,207 square feet of siding on each of the two homes. They painted the 1,230 square feet of interior space in each home, insulated them, and installed 10 windows and 12 doors, including trim and knobs. They also cleaned and swept the homes, as well. In the MorningSide home, members cleared and decked the basement floor and raised the walls. The team took on an inventory project for Habitat, accounting for and recording all supplies and tools. Thanks to the NCCC team's service with Habitat, three low income families now have a home they might not have been able to afford.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

In the past year, 52 Foster Grandparents were sponsored by the Isabella County Commission on Aging. These Foster Grandparent volunteers worked with at-risk children in Central Michigan, mentoring them and helping them with literacy. Every one of the children the Foster Grandparents mentored improved their academic performance in reading and math, and showed significant gains in social and emotional development. The principal at one Foster Grandparent volunteer station said they consider Foster Grandparents an important part of the school family because of the one-on-one attention they give to students who need extra support. The specific individual effect a Foster Grandparent can have on a child is highlighted by a young mother who shared that her son used to have nightmares about school. A Foster Grandparent was assigned to the boy and sat with him at lunch each day to nourish his interaction with other students. The nightmares finally stopped went away and school became a positive experience. The Foster Grandparent's service helped the child feel more positively about himself and laid a strong foundation for his academic career.

Senior Corps RSVP

The Tuesday Toolmen volunteers help seniors live independently in a safe and accessible home. These volunteers serve in RSVP Your Invitation to Volunteer, which is sponsored by Senior Services, Inc. of Southwest Michigan. The City of Kalamazoo provides funds for home repairs to Senior Services through a Community Development Block Grant, a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The RSVP Tuesday Toolmen build accessible ramps, install handrails for interior or exterior stairs, make carpentry repairs to stairs, install bathroom grab bars, install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, make plumbing and electrical repairs, and do home safety checks. Referrals for the Toolmen's home repair services come from seniors who have received services before, word of mouth, Senior Services staff for Medicaid Waiver clients and Meals on Wheels clients, from Area Agency on Aging information and assistance, hospital discharge planners, and concerned family members. In the last year, 19 RSVP Tuesday Toolmen volunteers served 2,531 hours, helped 70 seniors with 147 repairs, and built 15 wheelchair-accessible ramps.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

In Menominee, Delta, and Schoolcraft Counties, people who are 65 or older are now 21 percent of the population. The Senior Companion Program, sponsored by the MDS Community Action Agency and Human Resource Authority, Inc., is critical to fulfilling the escalating needs in this growing sector. The Senior Companion Program helps meet these needs through its 43 Senior Companion volunteers, who give companionship, help with meals, give rides to doctor's appointments, give respite to care givers, and host of other services for homebound, disabled, and isolated older adults. The services they give help people maintain independent living. In this Upper Peninsula community, Senior Companions who serve socially isolated elderly people targeted 260 homebound seniors to receive this service intervention. In all, 342 people were helped, and 99 percent of these people agreed that the Senior Companions' socialization lifted their loneliness. Also thanks to the Senior Companions, 90 percent of the caregivers who received respite care reported they have now the support and resources they need to continue taking care of a family member in their home.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is investing \$1,162,535 to expand the impact of 18 nonprofits in Michigan. SIF-supported nonprofits are working to improve healthy living, foster youth development and increase economic opportunity throughout the state. In 2015, LISC subgrantees working in Michigan provided services to 1,577 people, placed 313 people in jobs, and helped 308 people increase their net worth. The SIF transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America.

Volunteer Generation Fund

The Michigan Community Service Commission has awarded Volunteer Generation Fund subgrants to four urban organizations to assist them in leveraging volunteers and supporting innovative collaboration between public and private organizations focused on My Brother's Keeper-Michigan. Each organization is implementing programming aimed at improving the lives of youth, through mentoring, structured activities, volunteer projects, and education assistance. All subgrantees are increasing opportunities for youth, including boys and young men of color. In 2104-15, 1,051 volunteers were leveraged by the grants and they served 17,175 hours.